

PATENT  
450106-02134

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Tetsujiro KONDO et al. Notice of Allowance  
Dated: 04/07/2005  
Serial No. : 09/586,205 Confirmation No. 6105  
For : ENCODING APPARATUS, ENCODING METHOD,  
DECODING APPARATUS, DECODING METHOD,  
AND RECORD MEDIUM  
Filed : June 2, 2000  
Examiner : Duy M. DANG  
Art Unit : 2621

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New York, New York 10151

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with  
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Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 29, 2005

Darren M. Simon, Reg. No. 47,946

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

April 29, 2005

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

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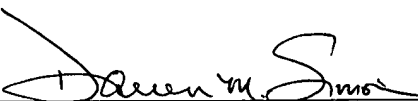
Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which  
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed April 7, 2005. To the extent the Examiner's

Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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